

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001883 290931Z /12

O 290903Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0821
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JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI IMMEDIATE
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI IMMEDIATE
CINCPACREPPH SUBIC BAY RP IMMEDIATE
13THAF CLARK AB RP IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 15135

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

LT GEN MANOR SENDS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: US/RP MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS (U)

1. AT GEN ESPINO'S REQUEST I MET PRIVATELY AT CAMP AGUINALDO WITH HIM AT 0900 29 AUGUST. GEN ESPINO AS USUAL WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND AFTER EXCHANGING THE USUAL PLEASANTRIES HE LAUNCHED INTO THE PURPOSE OF HIS REQUEST TO SEE ME. PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS GIVEN INFORMATION (SOURCE NOT KNOWN TO GEN ESPINO) THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ESTABLISHING ICBM SITES IN VIETNAM. THEY VIEW THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WITH GREAT CONCERN AS IT IMPACTS ON THE SECURITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PRESENCE OF U.S. BASES. HE REQUESTED THAT I INQUIRE THROUGH MY SOURCES TO DETERMINE WHETHER
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WE CAN VERIFY THE SOVIET MISSILE ACTIVITY IN SRV. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT BUT THAT I WOULD MAKE THE INQUIRIES AS REQUESTED AND CONFER WITH HIM WHEN THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. GEN ESPINO THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS PHIL CONCERN REGARDING THE GROWING SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC BUT PRIMARILY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE IS

PHIL CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIETS ESTABLISHING A NAVAL BASE IN VIETNAM SUCH AS AT CAM RHAN BAY. AGAIN, I RESPONDED THAT I HAD SEEN NOTHING OF LATE THAT WOULD INDICATE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN INDICATIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA CONFLICT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN CAM RHAN BAY.

2. GEN ESPINO THEN SAID THAT THE CONCERNS REGARDING SUSPECTED SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE US-RP MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. HE SAID THAT THE TERMS ARE VERY VAGUE AND THERE ARE CONCERNS REGARDING U.S. REACTIONS TO A THREAT THAT WOULD BE POSED BY SOVIET MISSILES ON MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE QUESTION HE POSED: HOW WOULD THE U.S. INTERPRET THE MDT? I RESPONDED THAT I WASN'T IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER BUT THAT I WOULD RELAY THE CONCERN TO HIGHER AUTHORITY.

3. GEN ESPINO HAVING EXHAUSTED THE TOPIC WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY THE REASON FOR OUR MEETING, CHANGED THE SUBJECT TO THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF THE RAINY WEATHER ON GOLF AND TENNIS. SINCE HE APPARENTLY DID NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS, I ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT WE WOULD RESUME OUR MEETINGS. HE SAID THAT HE COULDN'T FORECAST BUT IT WOULD NOT BE
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UNTIL AFTER I PROVIDED THE INFORMATION REQUESTED AND THAT INFORMATION WAS DISCUSSED WITH HIS SUPERIORS. HE ADDED THAT IT COULD BE QUITE SOME TIME BUT HOPEFULLY NOT TOO LONG. I PRESSED FURTHER BY ASKING IF HE FORESAW THE RECESS CONTINUING FOR AS LONG AS TWO OR THREE MORE WEEKS. HE SAID THAT HE REALLY COULD NOT FORECAST BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE AT LEAST THAT LONG AND PERHAPS LONGER, AGAIN STATING THE NEED FOR THE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE RECESS OCCURED SO SOON AFTER MY ARRIVAL BECAUSE WE WERE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS.

4. I ASKED GEN ESPINO HOW HIS BRIEFING TO THE CABINET LAST WEDNESDAY WAS RECEIVED. HE SAID THE BRIEFING WENT WELL BUT THAT HE DID NOT GIVE IT. IT WAS PRESENTED BY MINISTER ROMULO BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HIM (GEN ESPINO). HE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A LONG MEETING STARTING AT 1100 AND GOING UNTIL AFTER 1700. EARLIER INFORMATION INDICATED THAT MUCH OF THE TIME WAS TAKEN UP BY MIN ROMULO'S REPORT ON THE US-ASEAN MEETING.

5. I INQUIRED ABOUT HIS TRIP SOUTH. HE SAID HE HAD A GOOD TRIP AND VISITED ZAMBOANGO, JOLO, DAVAO AND CEBU. HE SAID THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH IS FAIRLY STABLE ALTHOUGH MOVEMENT IS VERY RESTRICTED AND RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN HEAVY LOSSES DUE TO AMBUSHES.

6. RETURNING TO THE SOVIETS, HE MUSED THAT THEY POSED A REAL CONCERN. I COMMENTED THAT ACCORDING TO THE MEDIA THE FIRST LADY HAD BEEN ACCORDED A GOOD RECEPTION

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EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

LT GEN MANOR SENDS

IN MOSCOW AND HAD HAD A FINE VISIT. HE SAID SHE DID HAVE A GOOD VISIT BUT IT PRIMARILY CENTERED AROUND MUSIC, ADDING THAT TCHAIKOVSKY IS HER FAVORITE COMPOSER AND HER TRIP WAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PRESENTATION OF HIS COMPOSITIONS. HE MADE A PASSING COMMENT ABOUT HER RECEPTION BY SOME U.S. CONGRESSMEN NOT BEING VERY GOOD BUT THAT SHE WASN'T PARTICULARLY UPSET BY THAT.

7. HE CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY INVITING ME TO A CELEBRATION AND PARADE IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' BIRTHDAY TO BE HELD AT CAMP AGUINALDO ON 8 SEPT. AND

ADDED THAT MRS. MANOR AND I WOULD BE RECEIVING A DINNER INVITATION FROM HIM AND MRS. ESPINO.

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8. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CINCPAC PROVIDE ME A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS POSED BY GEN ESPINO AS TO WHETHER WE CAN VERIFY THE SOVIET MISSILE ACTIVITY IN SRV AND/OR SOVIETS ESTABLISHING A NAVAL BASE THERE. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, I WOULD PLAN, WHEN RESPONDING TO THOSE INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS TO MERELY ADVISE GEN ESPINO THAT I HAD RELAYED THE RP CONCERNS WITH THE MDT TO HIGHER AUTHORITY.

9. REGARDING THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS RESUMPTION, IT IS MY VIEW THAT WE ARE SEVERAL WEEKS, AT LEAST THREE, FROM ANY RESUMPTION. I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO KEEP THIS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION OPEN. I RECOMMEND MY CONTINUED PRESENCE IN MANILA UNTIL FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. MURPHY

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